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MISSISSIPPI PALISADES STATE PARK

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MISSISSIPPI PALISADES STATE PARK . . . near Savanna, has long been known for its scenic and historic attributes. The entire park has been utilized providing many varied recreations for the visitor enjoyment. Fifteen miles of foot trails carry the hiker to the crest of the Palisades and through many picturesque areas. There is a concession stand near the main entrance to the park where light refreshments are sold. Fishing and boating are popular. There are good launching ramps. Many shaded picnic areas are conveniently located. No cooking may be done except on park or camp stoves. Camping permits must be obtained from the Park Ranger for tent or trailer camping. There is limited electricity and sanitary stations are available for trailers.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS BEAUTY

In northern Illinois the valley of Apple River drops from the rugged unglaciated upland of Jo Daviess County to the steep-walled gorge of the Mississippi River just above Mississippi Palisades State Park. South of this point it crosses the sandy terraces of the great river now hugging the low bluffs of the valley's side. The bluffs are seamed with shallow valleys and miniature ravines. The flood plain—damp, cool, green—is a picture of pastoral loveliness.

Dense forests mass up along the water's edge to obscure the broad river. Highway and railroad are narrowly squeezed between bluff and the river at the northern entrance to Mississippi Palisades, the beautiful 1560 acre State Park on the towering bluffs, 250 feet above the river. Its sheer bluffs, fern-clad slopes, weather-worn crags and densely wooded areas are reminiscent of the famed Palisades of the Hudson River, for which the park is named.

Mississippi Palisades State Park on Route 84, in Carroll County, is a few miles north of Savanna, formerly the county seat and one of the oldest towns on the upper Mississippi River. Settled in 1828 and known as "Council Bluffs of the Upper Mississippi" because of the Indian council lodge large enough to accommodate 1000 which stood on the bluff overlooking the river. Savanna was an important river port before the railroad era, serving as a central trading

ALISADES STATE PARK

post for settlers.

When the state acquired the Mississippi Palisades State Park in 1929, one of the most beautiful stretches of scenic grandeur along the Mississippi was selected and the natural beauty was preserved in its primeval state. Lovers of plant life will find great diversity here. The deep ravines are filled with ferns and the bases of the cliffs are covered with rare and interesting plants, shrubs and vines. In the spring and summer the valleys and slopes are brightened with a mosaic of violets, bluebells, lobelias, bellworts and wild geranium.

In the northern section of the park, separated from the main body by privately owned land, is a magnificent stand of white birch.

SCENIC TRAILS

Well-marked foot trails lead the visitors along paths once worn smooth by the moccasined feet of Indians to the very tops of high palisades which command sweeping views of the mighty "Father of Waters". Below the summit of the bluffs the river sweeps far to the north and south, the force of its current opposed only by bayous and side-channels, islands and wooded marshlands. In the background above the river rise the imposing hills in Iowa.

Among the many foot trails which radiate from the valley and wind through the park, SUNSET TRAIL, SENTINEL TRAIL and FERN VALLEY TRAIL are among the most popular.

The main entrance to the park is backed by high bluffs. The trail to the south winds up in a wooded, mossy ravine to a shelter on the cliff top, from which there is an excellent view downstream of the Savanna waterfront. The northern trail to the shelter house is longer and rougher. The view upstream from the cliff reveals an impressive profile of the bluffs, wooded islands, meandering inlets, and a vast forested expanse of bottomland.

Numerous Indian Mounds are scattered through the park. Arrowheads, pottery and other implements have been unearthed from some of them. Old Indian trails and stagecoach roads can still be traced.

▲ Railroad squeezed between palisades and mighty Mississippi.

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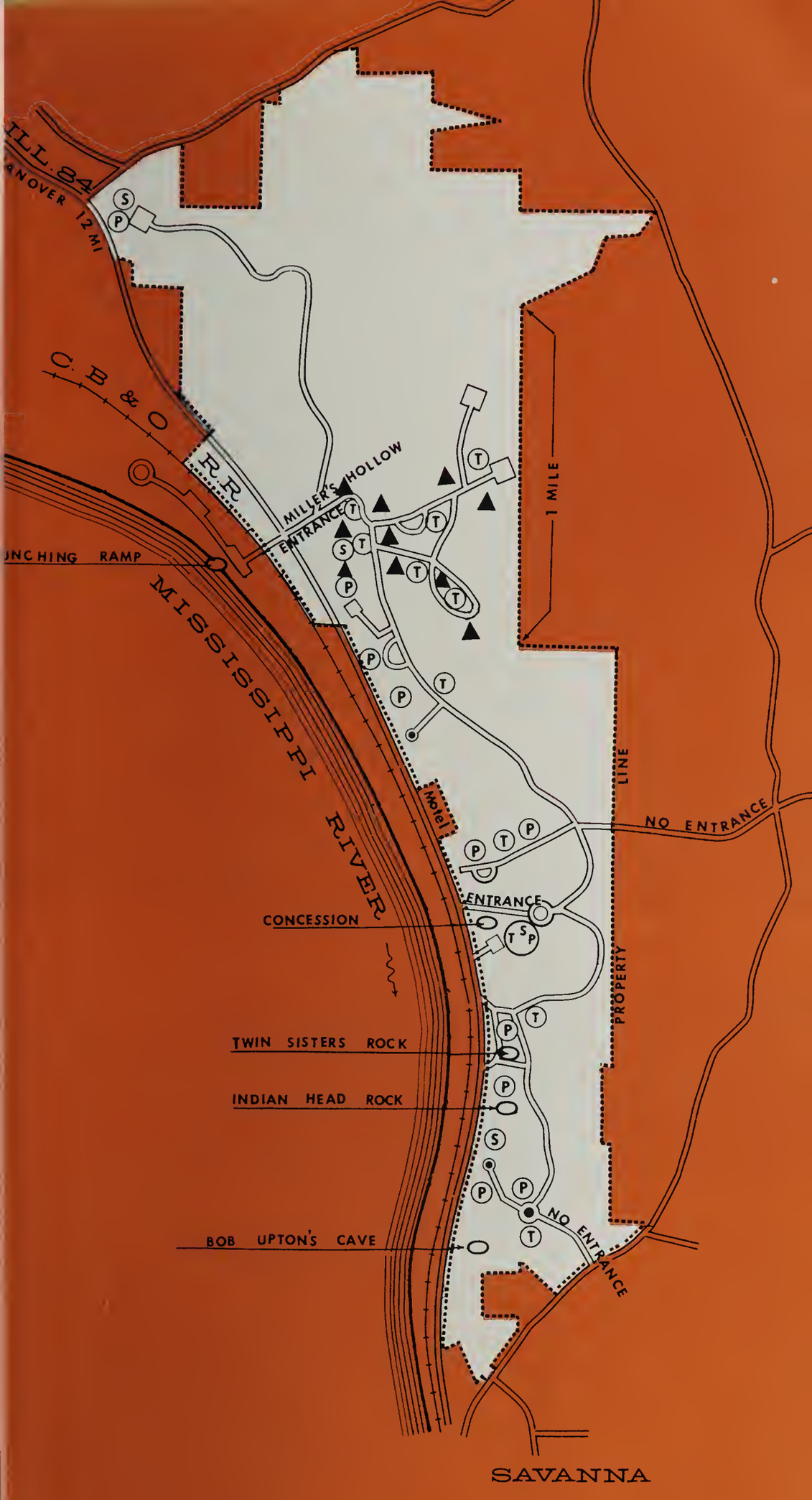
▼ Captivating view looking north from atop Palisades.

UNUSUAL ROCK FORMATIONS

Many unusual **rock** formations are found in the park. One of the most familiar INDIAN HEAD, a huge promontory rising from the shaded department of the woodland, seems to be surveying the river. The rock face with aquiline features and high cheek-bones, attributed by legend to an Indian sculptor, is doubtlessly of natural origin. Equally popular is "TWIN SISTERS", a pair of tall columns springing from a huge rock base, with general outlines of human figures, though the faces are not clearly defined.

Indian Head maintains eternal vigilance over palisades area.

Bizarre rock formation renowned as "Twin Sisters".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C. B & O R.R.
MILLER'S HOLLOW
ENTRANCE
1 MILE
UNCHING RAMP
MISSISSIPPI RIVER
Motel
PROPERTY LINE
NO ENTRANCE
ENTRANCE
CONCESSION
TWIN SISTERS ROCK
INDIAN HEAD ROCK
BOB UPTON'S CAVE
NO ENTRANCE
SAVANNA
N
LEGEND
CAMP GROUNDS
PICNIC AREAS
SHELTER
TOILET

Oblique aerial shot shows part of the boat launching area.

For further information concerning Illinois State Parks and Memorials write to the DIVISION OF PARKS AND MEMORIALS, 100 State Office Building, Springfield, 62706.

Our numerous State Parks and Memorials are of easy access from every part of the state. Lodges, cabins, and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette, White Pines Forest, and Giant City State Parks. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

All state Parks are open the year round, except when weather conditions necessitate the closing of park roads during the freezing and thawing periods. Then access to park facilities is by foot traffic only.

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